Note reference to wife on page 3. E.P.N. 1

To Eliz. P. Nichol.

August 7. 1854

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Dear Lissie,

How long it is since I had a paper talk with you - I dare not look back & find the exact date - it would discourage me too much - It is well you know by long experience what a negligent correspondent I am - & then it's really delightful to have you for a friend, you are always so ingenious in finding out ennobling reasons for your correspondents neglecting you, as that they are most usefully employed every moment - & engaged in such world wide & elevated cares as to have no time for the common duties & pleasures of life - Ah, Lizzie, if I made you my spiritual confessor, & probed down to the very bottom, I do believe I should have to confess that about one half of my letter sins of omission came from pure indolence - But I wont go on confessing for fear of lessening myself in your good opinion - Pray be very obstinate and resolve to believe all the good your kind heart dictates spite of my ugly confessions

We are, this summer, at Milton, one

of the most delightful of our country towns, about 10 miles from Boston. Anna's brother has a place here & we are with him. She is as usual - little sleep - very weak - never goes down stairs - in most excellent & cheerful spirits - interested keenly in all good things - & I sometimes tell her, so much my motive & prompter to every good thing, that I fear, should I lose her, there'd be nothing of me left worth your loving -

We read your son's book, I mean his pieces, with the most real & hearty interest - & congratulate you & your husband on the flattering promise they give of a useful &

brilliant life. The whole volume was very creditable to the young men - & to your husband's pages I am debtor for the correction of an old error. How much we have to unlearn as life advances - History & biography & more specially, the history of philoso-phy must be written over again as soon as men grow really liberal to each other, as soon as they discard the word *tolerant*, which itself im*plies* a right in the user to be otherwise - & see every man's *right* to his own opinion - To your detailed account of farce of a "happy family" - & to your question as to Mr.

Stowe this little notelet, is
not intended as an answer —
for this reason. The Stowe note
we have left in Miss Westons hands —
she expecting soon a visit from
Mrs Stowe & then will find a fit
opportunity to see how that matter
really is. Mrs. Stowe has been
so intimate confidential & closely
allied with us all here — visiting
W.L.G. often & sending for him
still oftener that I hope she is
misrepresented — But with
17 years experience I only hope.
Whether we learn the truth I'll
write you immediately — As to

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the facts of your other letter, many thanks for them; I will make a good use of the confi-dence: & your good husband will accept our most hearty thanks for his labors in behalf of their hated rights - Between you & me, you need not tell him, but I'm astonished that T.P.N. not having had *our* peculiar experience should see so clearly & pilot so sagaciously through these quicksands - Will you? You know our Antislavery words & folks are so peculiar & the wicked ones have such mean & *not to be expected*, ways of that common world experience is no armor against it.

cheating - But I shall not
not have more space for this
now -

I would say something
on the Burns case - if I did
not know you saw the Standard
& Liberator, from whose columns
you get so many particulars that
a note like this can add little -
Twas the saddest week I ever
passed - men talked of the
good we might expect for the
cause, but I could not think
then of the general cause, so
mournful & sad rose ever
before me the pleading eyes
of the poor victim, when he
sat & cast his case on our

conscience & placed his fate in our hands — I could not forget the man in the idea — Time has passed since, & I begin to think more of the 3000000 & less of the individual — The effect of his surrender under this infamous law has been, like Uncle Tom & all such spasms, far less deep & general than thoughtless folks anticipated — We always gain at such times a few hundred & the old friends are strengthened, but the mass settle down very little different from before —

Indeed the Govt has fallen into the hands of the Slave power completely — So far as

national politics are concerned
We are beaten — there is no hope
we shall have Cuba in a year
or two, Mexico in five — & I
should not wonder if efforts
were made to revive the Slave
Trade, though, perhaps un-
successfully, as the northern
Slave States which live by the
export of slaves would help
us in opposing that — Events
hurry forward with amazing
rapidity. We live fast here —
The future seems to unfold
a vast Slave Empire united
with Brazil & darkening
the whole West — I hope

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I may be a false prophet -
but the sky was never so dark
on the Union all confess, must
sever finally on this question -
It is now with 9/10 only a
question of time -

Did you get a likeness
of W.L.G. I sent you by Barker -
It is stern as all Daguerreotypes
are apt to be, but we think
it the best that has been taken
of him except Page's picture,
which is perfect, & is somewhere
(G Thompson knows where) in
London -

With best love to your
husband, Yours most affy
Ann & Wendell Phillips